



DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND BUILDING

Promoting the Wise Use of Land – Helping to Build Great Communities

TO: Planning Commission Members

FROM: John McKenzie

DATE: November 12, 2015

SUBJECT: Continued Hearing on Freeport-McMoRan Oil and Gas (FMOG) conditional Use Permit (DRC2015-00002) Hearing Continuance - Requested Information

At their October 22, 2015, Hearing for this item, the Planning Commission had additional questions relating to: groundwater quality, the proposed USEPA 'Aquifer Exemption' expansion process, and impacts to surrounding water quality.

The current 'Aquifer Exemption (AE)' expansion process first requires two state agencies (California Department of Conservation, Division of Oil, Gas and Geothermal Resources [DOGGR] and State Water Resources Control Board [SWRCB]) to reach concurrence. At such time, their recommendation is sent to the US Environmental Protection Agency who will make a final decision on the proposed Aquifer Exemption expansion of the Arroyo Grande oil field.

As a part of the AE review process, SWRCB has solicited the local Regional Water Quality Control Board [RWQCB] for their local knowledge and technical expertise on the groundwater basins around the oil field.

At the time of this memo, confirmation of attendance by the RWQCB was provided. They will provide to the Commission information about the proposed AE expansion and its potential to impact any surrounding potable water source. Furthermore, a request has also been made to SWRCB and DOGGR for their staff to attend the hearing and be available to answer questions.

